

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

## **Landfill Alternative Sub-Committee Minutes**

December 5, 2011

Attendees : Sue Morrello, John Root, Meg Vickery and Susan Waite.

Minutes of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, approved.

### **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Meeting (PVPC)**

Susan reported on the 11/29/11 PVPC Strategic Waste Assessment Meeting. They will be revising their goals due to the limited time for project completion. The plan now is to determine the capacity of existing regional landfills and to make recommendations to area communities.

Draft recommendations for the Pioneer Valley are:

Promote Pay-as-you-throw.

Increase recycling and reuse by increasing types collected.

Incorporate clothing reuse into recycling system (via Goodwill and Salvation Army).

Improve drop-off opportunities (e.g. transfer stations).

Educate public about true costs of garbage.

Municipal collaboration.

Conversations at the meeting netted the following info: The Granby landfill is scheduled to close in 2012 and the Chicopee landfill in 2015. Covanta is at capacity. There is a waste-to-energy plant in CT where there isn't a moratorium on bringing in out-of-state trash. Some poaching of trash from Southwestern MA appears to be happening. Duseau has opened a transfer station in Easthampton; some of their trash goes to South Hadley but most goes to upstate NY.

Single stream is becoming very popular in Central MA. Trash costs the most for haulers to deal with so they support recycling. Commercial recycling is a big challenge: Compliance at individual business level is key—each custodian must buy-in/be held accountable. Single stream compromises the quality for paper recycling

### **October Public Forum on Trash**

Feedback:

1. Transfer station provides valuable community service to area business per a contractor.
2. Letter of support in keeping transfer station open from Richard Roznoy
3. Email on behalf of LSSE Theater Co.—transfer station is useful for finding materials for building sets and for getting rid of materials.
4. David Mullins - private citizen supports keeping the transfer station open.
5. Elsie Federman asked about expiration date on permit to operate the transfer station.

Action Plan:

We will wait for Pioneer report in order to be in harmony with other districts. We don't know what

options will be.

Importance to this committee:

1. Trash should be handled locally and in an environmentally responsible way.
2. If not local, then with the least environmental impact.

RRMC is an advisory committee that makes recommendations to Guilford Mooring and John Musante. They in turn make recommendations to the Select Board who then brings it to Town Meeting. This committee will write up a plan/recommendations which will include PAYT, zero waste and where trash from transfer station is taken.

People may object to a one-hauler system. Committee needs to assess the risk of pushing too far. Currently, there are waste hauler agreements with the Health Department. PAYT goes with a single hauler system and this requires an RFP. Current plan is to hash out a draft at the next RRMC meeting. Arlene Miller, from DEP, is a resource to answer specific questions and to possibly review the draft.

Research on the costs and environmental footprint of options for trash from transfer station as follows.

Covanta - John

Seneca Falls, NY landfill - Meg

Granby landfill - Sue

Susan shared comments from Jan Ameen, Franklin County Solid Waste Administrator, about her views on incineration. Cost is important to the towns that she works for and incineration is the cheapest. The standard price is \$70/ton but with a longer contract the price for can be as low as \$59/ton. Ameen believes Covanta has a good reputation and they try to do a good job.

Next Meeting: TBD